

Teacher shortages get worse

by Patricia Santinelli

A call on the Government to provide adequate funds to solve the serious shortage of specialist teachers was made at the University Council for the Education of Teachers' conference this week.

Mr Norman Payne, principal of Both College of Higher Education, said that the slight improvement in recruitment for some subjects at both undergraduate and postgraduate level was inadequate to deal with an increasingly serious situation.

"Only major action, not reliance on the chance fluctuations of normal applications for training, can provide any hope of dealing with a situation which schools are finding increasingly worrying," he said.

Apart from additional funding a scholarship or bursary scheme was needed to start in 1981, Mr Payne said. Institutions and validating bodies should be urged to take

account of the content and ethos of relevant subjects in initial training courses.

He added that local authorities should be given funds to make greater use of retuning courses. Also more effort should be directed to appointing new entrants with appropriate qualifications in shortage subjects above the minimum salary scale.

Professor R. F. Kempe of Keele University warned that unless some strong intervention was taken to offset the cumulative shortfall of physical science teachers, there would be a major distortion in the nature of the science curriculum in the schools with inevitable consequences for higher education and industrial recruitment.

"The situation in physics is particularly worrying, not only because it has the highest number of unfilled vacancies but also because of

the high proportion of unqualified staff engaged in physics teaching," said Professor Kempe. "The 'hidden' shortage arising from the latter phenomenon is probably five times higher than the shortage arising from unfilled posts."

Professor Kempe outlined three possible complementary strategies to counteract the problem: an intensified effort to inform final year students on physical science courses about the excellent career opportunities in teaching; retraining programmes should be set up to prepare teachers in non-shortage areas for teaching physics; and greater effort should go into improving working conditions for science teachers so as to reduce high wastage.

Professor Len Centor of Loughborough University warned of the serious shortage of craft, design and technology teachers which was likely to deteriorate further.



Tilton's "Noli Me Tangere" in the National Gallery is one of the paintings by the artist discussed in an Open University programme called "Tilton's Technique". The programme is part of the Open University Showcase which will be screened tomorrow night at 8.15 pm on BBC 2.

South Bank's second look

A Council for National Academic Awards visiting party is to make a return visit to South Bank Polytechnic in 18 months' time, after a critical quinquennial inspection earlier this month.

Academic standards and such things as computing facilities were praised by the visiting team, which has yet to compile its full written report.

But doubts were expressed about the weak role the polytechnic's faculty structures had played in the academic decision making in the past. The polytechnic itself plans to strengthen the faculty structure's role, and the CNAA wants to see what emerges before coming to a final judgement.

The wish for an early return was initially expressed by the CNAA and polytechnic director Professor John Robinson. A major initiative in the decision was that the senior management at the polytechnic is undergoing almost a total change.

Poly call

continued from page 1
63,000 to 76,000 in 1979. But per cent of full-time and part-time students are over 25. The 1978-79 figures for

Some aspects of the Department of Education's recent report on continuing education and higher education are under attack from polytechnics. But they generally agree that the initiative for the future importance of continuing education is crucial.

Mrs. Carol Chiswick, secretary in the department, said further education and higher education are not the same thing. She said the department's role is to help people to get on with their lives, and that the department's role is to help people to get on with their lives, and that the department's role is to help people to get on with their lives.

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PNL students fight course closures

Students at the Polytechnic of North London are opposing the closure of two physics courses and the recommended transfer of courses in rubber technology to another London polytechnic.

They say this forms a major threat to science teaching at PNL and have accused the polytechnic's director of being a "reactionary" and a "defence".

The closure of the two physics courses is being opposed by academic staff who say it will lead to the running down of the strong physics department in the five inner London polytechnics.

Staff in the physics department have also accused the director of allegedly failing to consult them properly about the decision.

In a letter to the chairman of PNL's court of governors they say: "We are taking the unusual step of writing to you directly because it seems to us that the normal channels of academic communication and consultation are not being used in this instance."

They have asked the governors to allow recruitment to the two threatened courses in 1981 and 1982 to allow the physics department to develop alternative proposals.

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Lecturers may reject closed shop advice

by David Jobbins

Leaders of the lecturers' union at Leeds are prepared to consider advice from their national executive to withdraw from a post-entry closed shop agreement.

But they are angered by the contrast between their leaders' public stance in support of TUC opposition to the Employment Act and the secret moves to avoid a confrontation over the Leeds agreement.

"It is likely they will in fact resist the strong advice which the executive of the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education has decided to offer."

Mr Vince Hall, chairman of the city's NAFHE liaison committee, said: "We have been surprised by the hypocrisy of the executive in that they go to Congress, support opposition to the Employment Act and say they want to stop while in private they come to us and say we are out going to be the first test case under it."

There is no doubt of the strength of opposition in the executive to the Leeds agreement, which requires all new lecturers to belong to NAFHE or agree to join.

Voting on the executive committee which decided on the line of action was apparently 15-0 in support of authorising general secretary Mr Peter Dewe to write to the national committee and local branches with strong advice that they should go no further with the agreement.

While prepared to listen to advice, local leaders say that these opponents should explain their opposition to the leader of the city council, Mr Graham Mudge.

"At local level they are confident that the revolt within the polytechnic's two branches will eventually be unsuccessful."

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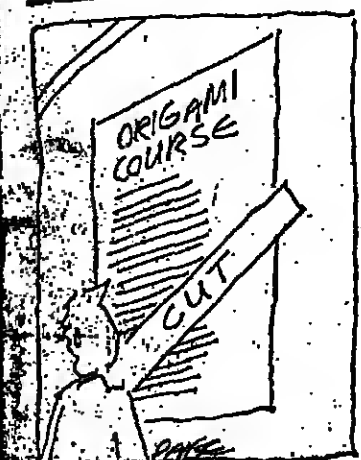
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Economic package means double blow

by Peter David

Universities and polytechnics may have to reduce their spending plans by some £30m next year as a result of the Government's package of economic measures announced this week. But the exact size and distribution of the cuts will not be known until the end of the year and possibly later.

Higher education will suffer from two directions. The university and polytechnic sectors will be hit by a reduction of 2.5 per cent (£30m) in the Department of Education's centrally controlled budget of £1.2bn.

Polytechnics will suffer from the reduction in local government spending.

Ministers are now seeking an agreement with the University Grants Committee to settle the funding of the £22m cut which will have to be borne by the universities. At present they account for 18.5m of the DES budget.

The rest of the DES budget is split between the research council (£200m), student grants (£250m), direct grant institutions (£100m) and local authority capital expenditure (£250m).

Universities are unlikely to escape with less than the full 2.5 per cent cut, because the Government is committed to some protection of the science budget. If their budget is indeed cut by 2.5 per cent, the UGC will have to reduce its spending plans next year by some £22m.

The fate of the polytechnics and colleges is even more difficult to forecast, because their funds are contained within the global sum for local government expenditure, which has now had an additional 1 per cent cut imposed on top of the 2 per cent cut in next year's spending which was already planned.

If education spending is reduced in proportion with the 3 per cent cut facing local authorities, the education service as a whole would face a cut of up to £300m, but that will depend on the decisions of individual local authorities.

Ministers do, however, exercise more direct controls on polytechnics and colleges through their funding agreements with the Higher Education Funding Council, the central body which reimburses authorities for their higher education spending.

Spending curbs put quality in danger, warns UGC chairman

by Ngalo, Crequer

The University Grants Committee has told the Government that lack of funds means it will probably have to abandon its policy of maintaining excellence in all disciplines. In a confidential letter written by Dr Edward Perkes, chairman of the UGC, to all members of the subject sub-committees, he warns that there may be less than level

funding in the future and asks them to work out a strategy for rationalization. There may be a particular difficulty in providing funds for "well-founded" laboratories for research, he says.

"The committee has concluded, and so advised the Secretary of State, that there are no longer likely to be available the resources fully to maintain the traditional policy of working towards attainment of ex-

cellence in as many disciplines as the universities might wish. "It accepts that in the long run smaller institutions may have to concentrate their particular strengths in a limited number of fields and there will have to be more institutional collaboration."

He says only the UGC can give guidance on changes to be brought in over a long period. Such changes must be thoroughly planned.

"This situation is without precedent in the recent university history because hitherto change has been possible in a system of increasing resources and increasing student numbers." From now on resources for new developments and activities will only be found at the expense of others, the letter says.

He said that each field of study would require a different approach and in some cases the problems might be more severe. An early statement will be required from each sub-committee.

Dr Perkes wants the committee's preliminary strategic views by the end of the year. Although on the beginning this will consist of general views of members, "comment on particular institutions is not ruled out, and at a later stage the committee will need tactical advice on particular institutions."

He said that this new work would be done by the sub-committees, which will clash with existing commitments and has drawn up a timetable for the new mechanism. In January or February the main committee will consider the implications.

It will use these and other information from the universities about subject balance and student numbers, and possible resource information from the Department of Education and Science to give the universities some central guidance.

MSC document urges new philosophy of training

by Patricia Santinelli

Major expansion of education and training for adults and young people would commit the Government to a 10-year programme to be developed in a confidential document prepared by the Manpower Services Commission.

The initiative involves the adoption of a completely new philosophy of training backed up by education from the present time.

The document says: "There is a need for a much wider range of opportunities in 'open learning' approaches which make education and training accessible to those who cannot attend full-time education."

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Social Research Association alleges 'Government control'

by Charlotte Barry

Government departments are accused of exerting "unacceptable control" over the commissioning of research projects in a report published this week by the Social Research Association.

The highly critical document on terms and conditions of social research funding in Britain says that intervention by central Government is "unacceptable".

In its view this is a dangerous trend, says the inquiry working party. Close supervision of research is "unacceptable" and "unacceptable" and "unacceptable".

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Contents

Latin America



Harvey Suran and Georges Fauriol discuss the growing independence of Latin America from the United States, 11

David Lodge

Simon Midgley talks to David Lodge, novelist, Catholic and critic, 10

Freedom in Africa

Ali Mazrui discusses the uncertain prospects for academic freedom in east Africa, 13

150 years of the RGS

Andrew Goudie reviews three new books on geography past, present and future, 14

DES under fire

In a third article on the Price report, Peter Scott discusses the committee's hostility to the DES, 9

Psychology books

Skinner, Jensen, autism and altruism are among the subjects of new books on psychology, 18-21

North American News

Overseas News

Worldwide

Books

24-21

Science books

14, 17

Notable books

22

Classified Index

23

Opinion

Union view (AUT)

Christopher Price MP, Don's diary

Laurie Taylor, letters

Leaders (cuts, Big Zelt)

University (IEA) George

Rainford

91

Ngaio Crequer reports on the effects of rationalisation at two universities

Lancaster's Russian course reprieved

Sussex staff bitter at 'divisive' report

Lancaster University's Russian department and centre for regional studies have been saved from closure but the future of three other departments is still uncertain.

At a meeting last week Senate rejected by 46 votes to 26 a proposal by the development committee to phase out the Russian department and to cease to admit students for major or combined degree courses.

The development committee had argued that the nationally small pool of students, the need to prevent Soviet Studies being thinly scattered throughout the country, and financial priorities justified closure.

But Senate, impressed by the department's increased admissions and the quality of the work being done ruled otherwise and the department will continue.

Senate accepted a recommendation that the Centre for North West Regional Studies should continue, and should operate within its present cash limits. The development committee had been impressed by external evidence, called about the importance of the Centre in the region.

No decision was made on the department of Arabic and Islamic Studies. The development committee was "of the opinion that a department of three without a language teacher cannot properly offer a major degree course. Nor can it see any way in which the university could find additional resources to develop and build the department into a centre of strength in under-graduate teaching through the 1980s".

But it was noted that the department had received assurance of external financial support and the implications, extent and duration of

this was being actively explored, and the matter will be referred to Senate again later.

A decision was also deferred on European Studies and Central and South Eastern European Studies. A number of options are still being examined one of which is the possible merger of the two departments.

The total freeze on vacancies last year had been financially effective but also did "unacceptable damage" and Senate agreed to the appointment of five posts.

A number of other measures were agreed to encourage or provide economies. From the beginning of this session 20 per cent of any new savings from leave or redundancy will accrue to the department, to act as an inducement.

There will also be savings targets for each department and these will be monitored as a guide to possible action by the development committee.



Phillip Reynolds: Lancaster vice-chancellor

Academic staff at Sussex University have criticized an internal rationalization report as divisive and say there are deep misgivings about the continued existence of the review group.

The interim report of the group for the planning of income and expenditure at Sussex, published in June, overstated on the damage that would be caused to the university if the worst financial cuts had to be made. It raised the possibility that 60 jobs might be lost if income fell short, non academic services could be restricted and savings including the selling of short courses to those who could afford them, might be necessary.

The original report was referred back by Senate and Council and the planning group are now taking further evidence.

In a paper prepared by a study group the local Association of University Teachers rejects the interim report and makes serious criticisms of it.

It says that the AUT is "concerned that the Group failed in its report to give leadership and bolster morale by an unequivocal commitment to maintain the university at its present strength; but chose instead to justify cuts and retrenchments by making gratuitous and tendentious statements as to the present academic organization of the university, without evidence".

The AUT refers to the group report's references to "dubious courses", the "buzzing proliferation of minor courses" and the "sense of intellectual community among students" as progressively lost by the "disparagement of courses".

Fees policy leads to disparity

A growing disparity in evening class fees charged by local authorities is revealed this week in a survey carried out by the National Institute of Adult Education.

It reflects the trend by an increasing number of local education authorities to charge fees for adult education out of the public purse and make the service self-financing.

It also shows the reluctance of many L.E.A.s to offer reduced fees to those on supplementary benefit, the unemployed and the handicapped, even when these are capped or charged the full cost.

Most authorities however continue to award concessions to old age pensioners.

The survey was compiled from figures sent to the NIAE by 66 L.E.A.s in response to a questionnaire sent out to all chief education officers last month. The findings together with the Advisory Council for Adult and Continuing Education, intends to publish a more detailed analysis early next year.

The preliminary survey shows that the average fee charged this year by an L.E.A. for a non-vocational evening class is 42p an hour, out of a total range of between 10p and 80p an hour. This corresponds to an average cost of £8.40 for a course of two hours a week for 10-week term.

Among most L.E.A.s rates for 0 level classes are lower, this year than for non-vocational classes. This average charged is 27p an hour, but rates vary from 10p to 55p an hour for a 60-hour course. Rates for vocational classes are higher, at 25p an hour on average for a course lasting 75 hours. The total range is between 13p and 55p an hour.

Most L.E.A.s, 60 out of the 66 which replied to the questionnaire, charge reduced fees to older pensioners for non-vocational classes at an average of 18p an hour. Some charge nothing, but two said they imposed the full fee. Most give concessions to old-age pensioners for examination courses.

A separate unpublished survey of evening class fees in the outer London boroughs and the home counties also reflects the growing disparity.

Rates vary from 18p an hour (£11 a year) in Waltham Forest, up to 75p an hour (£45 a year) in parts of West Sussex. A 30-hour year course at 35p an hour is lower than the overall national one of 42p.

Graduate market 'will slump'

As a result, the unit believes that sixth formers and their parents are likely to see higher education as a hedge against unemployment. But it warns that the prospects for the coming year seem less healthy.

The current state of recession is distinctly worse than in 1971-72 but firms have not yet halted their recruitment of graduates as even some large concerns did then.

While applauding in 1980 the determination of commercial and industrial interests to maintain an intake of high quality recruits, and thus ensure the future well-being of the organization, the fineness of activity has now persisted so late into the summer that it must be determined whether or not the fully recruited true needs for 1981, the report says.

A press release in January 1981 as sanguine as that of the previous year would be highly satisfying but is hardly to be expected.

For the current year, the unit experts the percentage of women believed unemployed to be slightly higher than that of men, as it was in 1979. The anticipated increase in demand for graduates of about 4 per cent may not have been met.

Manufacturing industry and other employers in the private sector seem to have adjusted themselves with lower recruitment than originally announced, as business confidence declined. Public authorities opportunities also declined, but by less than expected, and numbers joining the armed forces will almost certainly have risen.

Futures opportunities are bound to be patchy and will change rapidly. Computing science, for instance, remains a growth area but may stabilize soon. Engineering is expected to continue to show strong demand in most areas, with the stated requirement of one major employer more than the entire output of electrical engineers in 1980.

More policy research needed, SRA is told

Policy-related research in Britain is sparse, lacking in quality and in insufficient use, the Social Research Association was told this week.

Speaking to the SRA's third annual conference in London, Professor Teresa Blackstone of London University's Institute of Education said there was a strong case for more social policy oriented research.

"I don't believe we have yet reached the stage where we have successfully identified all the needs and demands of members of this society with respect to the whole area of social policy," she said.

More policy research is needed to aid planning and policy formulation and also to evaluate existing policies, Professor Blackstone added.

"There is a tendency in the United Kingdom once a policy has been decided to reject any thought of monitoring it. We don't ask how for the policies are responsive to the client's request or how far they are producing the outcome for which they were originally intended."

Drawing on her experience as a member of the Think Tank during the last Labour Government, she identified some of the constraints preventing the growth of policy research and its use by the policy makers.

Professor Blackstone criticized civil servants for their unfamiliarity with social science models, their lack of specialization and their "mark-and-research ethos". In addition, pressure to conform prevented them from putting forward radical policies, she said.

An added problem is the "clock and dagger attitude" preventing civil servants from consulting outsiders, so there is insufficient interchange between Whitehall and academic institutions.

Professor Blackstone emphasized that there are also constraints in the academic community affecting policy related research. Financial arrangements are inadequate, there is a shortage of skilled researchers and research training is poor.

She said she was heartened by new developments in the field, however. There had been a growth of social administration and policy studies courses, expansion of the linked awards system of the post-graduate training board of the Social Science Research Council and increasing involvement by practitioners in SSRC committees.

Professor Blackstone also welcomed the growing pressure for more open government and the expansion of policy related research by bodies like the voluntary organizations.

Drawing up a list of recommendations, she called for more developments along these lines together with a greater popularization of social research and more collaboration with science policy researchers.

'Half a day' solution to shortage

College and polytechnic lecturers could teach half a day a week in the schools to solve the shortage of science and maths teachers, an education committee chairman has suggested.

Mr Brian Sams, chairman of Bexley education committee and a senior lecturer in electrical engineering at the Polytechnic of Central London, says: "Many would welcome the chance."

His radical solution contrasts with the remedy recommended by the Clegg commission and accepted by the Barnham committee, which depended on increasing the number of higher graded posts in the schools.

This would not add to the number of specialist teachers, would encourage teacher mobility and lead to competition between schools for the limited number available.

A major difficulty facing schools is the need to recruit graduates to fill the posts. Mr Sams said that graduates in colleges of further and higher education tend to earn more than their counterparts in the schools, as well as having shorter teaching weeks and more favourable staffing ratios.

In one polytechnic there could be up to 100 engineers and physicists capable of teaching maths and science to O and A level, he told his fellow Conservative group.

In addition there would be large numbers of mathematicians, chemists, computer scientists and biologists.

"Surely it is not beyond the wit of local education authorities and the Home Office to find a way to tap this resource."

With the cuts, fewer students entering colleges to study science and engineering, and staff feeling the approach of redundancy, there must be many spare lecturers who could be used for secondment purposes.

Department doubles support for microelectronics research

Research supported by the Department of Industry last year cost a total of £177m—an increase of 13 per cent in real terms to the previous year. Most of this rise has been devoted to doubling the department's support for microelectronics technology and its application in industry, its annual research report reveals this week.

Two major microelectronics support schemes were introduced by the DoI in 1978—a microelectronics industry support programme to encourage electronics components manufacture, and a four-year microelectronics applications project (MAP) to boost the industrial take-up of microelectronics components.

By the end of March, 1980, £21m of MAP's £55m budget had been committed, including a £6.5m office on education and training. A further £12.7m expenditure was also under consideration at that time.

One of the major features of the MAP is the provision of grants to help universities extend downwards in order to maintain standards in higher education. Employers, despite its admitted reluctance to support the system partly because it is co-variant and partly because it is publicly defensible.

Mr Lee argues that the very relevance of social education provision—it is taken here as a course in the development of the individual, the self, social institutions and social issues—marks it down as non-traditional and hence dubious its value as preparation for success.

"The mere fact of studying some course, in a school or university, is second rate. Learning for its own sake, the self, social institutions and social issues—marks it down as non-traditional and hence dubious its value as preparation for success."

"Education in Britain may be said to be still dominated by an examination system, which has a second rate learning for its own sake, the self, social institutions and social issues—marks it down as non-traditional and hence dubious its value as preparation for success."

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Keep in touch, lecturers told

Polytechnic lecturers have been warned against losing touch with the outside world. The warning was delivered in a paper from Dr William Birch, director of Bristol Polytechnic, at last week's meeting of the Standing Conference on Educational Development Services to Polytechnics.

Lecturers involved in professional training should maintain close links with the professions, he said. Arrangements should be made for staff to be seconded to industry and other organizations.

Otherwise they would lose credibility with mature students who were coming from those organizations for mid-career training.

It would help them keep abreast of new developments in their field, especially at higher education, he said. A special responsibility to educate people to accept change as the norm and to learn how to adjust to it in such a way as to maximize the opportunities for progress.

The conference, which was jointly sponsored by the Department of Education and Science and SCEDSP, was called to discuss the future of mid-career training.

Industrial action call on AUT agenda

University lecturers are to be asked to support a call for industrial action including the refusal to mark examination scripts or co-operate with the award of degrees, if their pay demands are not met.

The call from Strathclyde, made in two motions, will be debated by the Association of University Teachers council in London next month.

They say that if there is no change in the date of the annual pay settlement, from October to April, lecturers should refuse to mark scripts, withhold marks if scripts are already marked and refuse to cooperate in any way with the award of degrees.

The college prospectus boasts classes of 10.

The students' union is now demanding that extra staff are taken on for the spring term.

Convenors of departments have been told by the school to ask for a higher budget if there is a need for additional staff. The union says that not all departments in need have come forward for this money.

Other motions also call for a change in the settlement date. Full deployment of the staff of the school in the October 1980 election year.

The motions also reflect serious concern about the position of research staff in the universities. Research staff in the universities are being paid less than full-time tenured research posts and Leeds proposes there should be no employment on fixed-term contracts exceeding an accumulated total of six years for any individual staff member.

Cardiff proposes a number of specific measures including two out of three-year rolling contracts for individuals with mechanisms for conversion to full posts, special funds for researchers of over four years experience, the creation of advanced fellowships in all research spheres and the end of waiver rights.

The AUT council will be held at University College, London, from December 17 to 19.

Berkshire college turns away 90

Nearly 90 would-be students in skills desperately sought by employers were turned away from a Berkshire college, the president of the Association of Colleges of Further and Higher Education complained this week.

The courses on which they were not accepted included electrical and electronic engineering, mechanical engineering, science, mathematics, computing and civil and mechanical engineering.

Mr John Richards told a meeting in protest at cuts in the country's education service.

"The same college had to turn away 50 students wanting to do a course in education and hotel reception — courses particularly relevant to the tourist industry so vital to this country."

Meeting explores training needs

Academics and administrators are meeting this week to see if there is a need for an alternative body to the existing Council for the Training of Teachers.

The proposal for the meeting, which is being held at the University of London, is to set up a new body to coordinate the training of teachers.

The proposal is being put forward by the University of London, which is the largest provider of teacher training in the country.

The new body would be responsible for setting standards for teacher training, for monitoring the quality of training, and for providing support and advice to teacher training institutions.

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Mrs Williams backs allowance scheme for 16-year-olds

A renewed plea for a system of educational maintenance allowances for part-time students and 16-year-olds came from Mrs Shirley Williams, the former secretary of state for education, today.

Mrs Williams stresses that although the combined effect of expenditure cuts and falling rolls on sixth forms threatens many of the recent advances in education, it might lead to changes in the examination structure which would make progress towards greater equality of opportunities.

"Schools will be compelled to co-operate with one another and with colleges of further education if post-16 studies are to be sustained. Reforms in the 16-plus examinations will be born of necessity since it will be impossible for small institutions to offer both O levels and CSE," she says.

The same issue of *Secondary Education* journal contains an editorial by Mr Alan Evans, head of the NUT education department which attacks "the willing and hapless Department of Education and Science which has for some time lacked the professional confidence, the political will and the institutional and financial framework to put up anything more than a token fight on behalf of the education service".

Entertainments

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هَذَا فِي الْحَقِّ

BOOKS

New worlds to conquer

To the Farthest Ends of the Earth: 150 years of world exploration by Ian Cameron. Macdonald, £10.95. ISBN 0 354 04470 8

Geography, Yesterday and Tomorrow, edited by E. H. Brown. Oxford University Press, £10.00. ISBN 0 19 874096 4

A History of Modern British Geography by T. W. Freeman. Longman, £13.50. ISBN 0 582 30030 4

by Andrew Goudie

During its 150 years the Royal Geographical Society has survived and, arguably, flourished in a world which has seen the demise or extinction of many once great institutional institutions. Above all it has survived in a world where the spirit and nature of geography have been transformed. Since 1830 it is alleged that there have been many revolutions and many new geographies, and yet paradoxically these motives which turn folk to geography—a concern with other places, a concern with exploration and field study, a concern with investigating the nature of the world in which man lives—still persist and still fascinate.

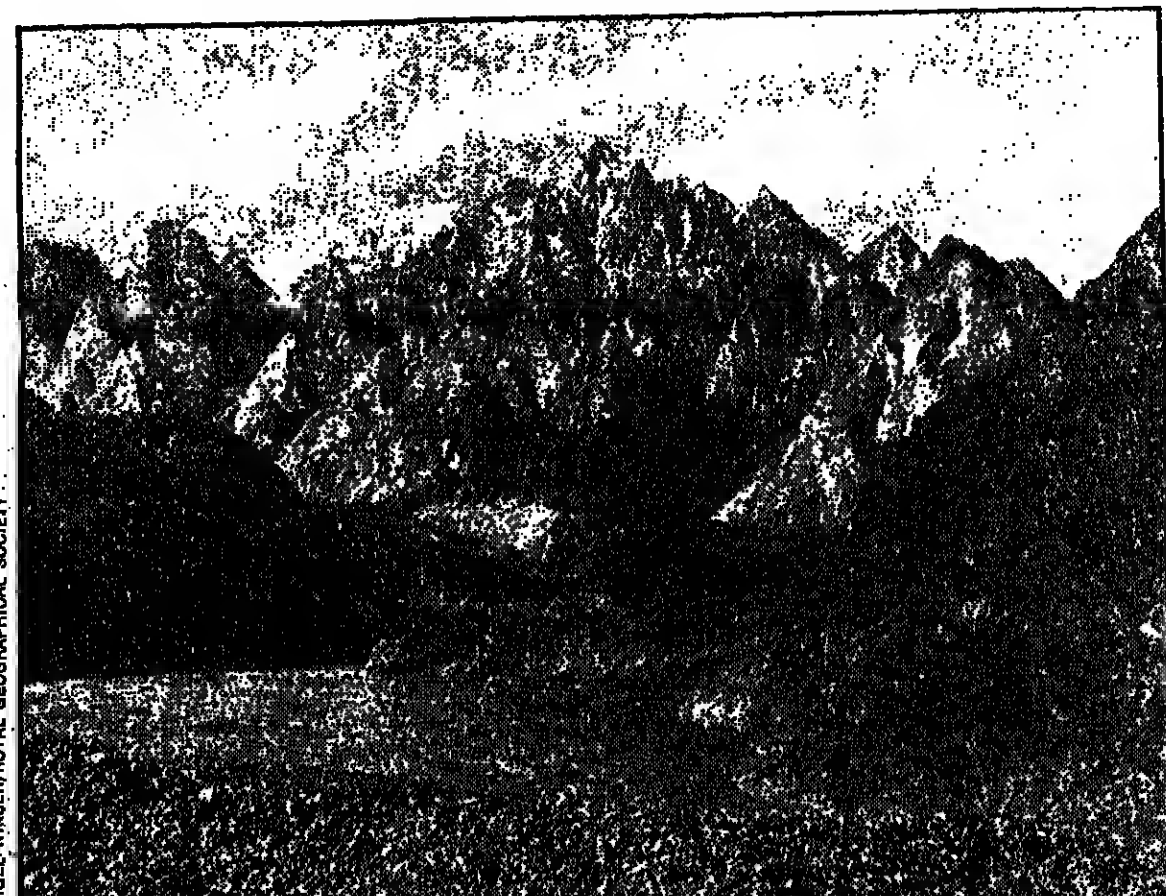
Thus, although a century or so ago the RGS may have been likened to a corporate Alexander weeping because it had no more worlds to conquer, it is, today, still sending out its own dauntless to the farthest ends of the Earth. Similarly, while calculus may for many geographers be a greater concern than cartography, it has been estimated that well in excess of £2,000 million is now being spent each year in the world on survey and mapping.

And while geographers often emphasize the novelty and the importance of the applied work, grained in the quest for relevance in the 1970s, they forget that geography has always been applied—in colonial administration, to training intelligence handbooks in World War II, to the investigation of patterns of disease (Dr. Hargrave and his ilk), to studying East African soil erosion or East Anglian coastal retreat, and many others. Geography's history is thus a curious combination of continuity and change.

One can argue that a lack of concern for the antecedents and history of geography, and a lack of attention to its core themes and attitudes, has often served geography ill. It is salutary to remember that the decadence of George Perkins Marsh did not herald a little during the environmental revolution in the 1960s and 1970s to contribute to the study of those items which Marsh had raised so cogently a century before in his *Man and Nature*. Similarly, one suspects that the heirs of E. H. Hargrave and his ilk may well contribute little over the next few years to one of the main aims of the World Climate Programme of the 1980s—to document, measure and assess the effect of climate on society.

And where are the successors to Hargrave, Marsh, and others? The RGS, and its offshoots, the British Geographical Society, the Royal Society of Geography, and the Royal Society of Tropical Geography, are all in various states of flux. The RGS, for example, has been reorganizing its structure and boundaries of south and western Asia are in the hands of British geographers. The RGS, for example, has been reorganizing its structure and boundaries of south and western Asia are in the hands of British geographers. The RGS, for example, has been reorganizing its structure and boundaries of south and western Asia are in the hands of British geographers.

A study of the history of geography and geographers is thus a salutary reminder of the need for the renewed or the complete re-evaluation of the subject. The RGS, for example, has been reorganizing its structure and boundaries of south and western Asia are in the hands of British geographers. The RGS, for example, has been reorganizing its structure and boundaries of south and western Asia are in the hands of British geographers.



Mount Tupsdnu (20,000 feet) in Pakistan's Kerekerim range—site of the Royal Geographical Society's recent International Korakorum Project, on which Dr Andrew Goudie was deputy-leader and director of the geomorphology programme.

Tomorrow, edited by Eric Brown for the RGS, and Walter Freeman's *History of Modern British Geography*.

Cameron's book, beautifully produced and illustrated, would be a welcome present for any deserving relative. It concentrates on some of the major themes of exploration in which the RGS has played a significant role: the search for the North-West Passage, the crossing of the Australian deserts, the quest for the sources of the Nile, the conquest of the North Pole, the race to the South Pole, and the discovery and ascent of Everest. It also describes the present-day scientific and educational endeavours of the RGS.

Predominantly it is a kind book and yet a fair book. It does not seek, as lamentably is the fashion in some quarters, to denigrate great men by sexual and other innuendoes yet when the RGS acted with less than perfect sense (as with Amundsen and Shipton) Cameron points this out. It is particularly gratifying that Sir Clements Markham, who accidentally cremated himself in his hammock in his eighty-seventh year because he preferred to read by the light of candle than by the electric light that hung above him, is given due recognition for his services to geography.

There are inevitably certain areas of endeavour which this attractive book does not cover and there are some explorers about whom little or nothing is said. One might say that the "bicycle" ride that Mrs. Dehny Bullock took under the leadership of Cecil Stubbart and the RGS in the hands of the Queen's Empress could have been recalled, or the role of the RGS in the discovery of the source of the Nile, or the discovery of the source of the Nile, or the discovery of the source of the Nile.

The second literary product of the RGS anniversary celebrations, *Geography, Yesterday and Tomorrow*, has very different aims and a very different approach. Terms like "geography" and "geographers" are used in a very different way from the way in which they are used in the present day.

books: *Geography, Yesterday and Tomorrow*, edited by T. W. Freeman (in which he explores the notable role of the RGS in the development of geography), and *Geography Tomorrow* (which should have been more accurately termed *Today*) in which 14 distinguished authors write about some major themes in academic geography.

Although it is fashionable for some academic geographers to regard the RGS as a quaint amalgam of heavy explorers and demagogues, the RGS is undoubtedly highly significant in showing that this is in fact but a feeble of its character. But for the RGS geography might well not have been established in the universities: the RGS made a considerable contribution to its publications to date, replenishing of Britain after 1945; the Journal has contained many key papers (especially on geomorphology); the RGS launches large-scale scientific research projects overseas (they are no longer to be called "expeditions"); and it provides a forum for geographers to range from Mople to Mule and from Mexico to Mexico.

The story of this contribution to geography is told with judicious quotations from the *Journal* and the *RGS* archives. But the story might have been made still more impressive had the author used a different structure, for as it is, it breaks the history up into various different time intervals, and then explores various themes within those time intervals. This makes it difficult to follow the role of the RGS in, say, furthering geomorphology, or in promoting education.

The second half of the book, like many multi-author surveys, is not totally uniform in approach, style and content, and there are some surprising omissions—where, for example, is political geography? Why is the geography of leisure and recreation ignored when there is so much to say about it? The book is a valuable survey, but it is a pity that it is not a more complete survey of the RGS's contribution to geography.

Dr. Simon makes some trenchant and timely remarks about biogeography: "It must still rank amongst the lowest in conception, awareness and methodological definition." It is also true that the time of our geography teaching is changing, largely free from the rigid and stultifying "shape and shape of packages" of the past.

Reverend W. D. Cowan wrote the following words in the *Scottish Geographical Magazine* in 1886: "The effect of the driving storm in Edinburgh must have been very like the effect of the Last Day in the Proms has today in the lounge of Luton. On Modagasa I wrote: 'While the subject of Britain are welcomed and praised as friends, the name of the men' stinks in the nostrils of the natives." Grot. Bilele is the type of all that is good and great as an Empire.

Freeman is also not without the occasional pungent remark at his own. He believes, for example, that Mackinder has been overpraised and says of Democratic Ideals and Realism that it "was read at the time by comparatively few people and that it is hardly remarkable as much of it consists of pallid generalization, or perhaps more accurately a montage of quotations and obscurely Lyde, more or less contemporary of Mackinder and professor at University College London (salary £50 per annum) is also summed up pithily as "an interesting and slightly eccentric character, amusing, mainly in his lack of Europe and Asia largely from press cuttings." Cambridge men sometimes fare little better. Of the great Bunbury, Freeman said "he spent much of his time in the Athenaeum and never married," while of Oldham he says he "wrote a few articles and spent most of his life as a college den, as comfortably as many before and since his time."

It is quite useful to see from the frequency with which Freeman refers to their deeds what British geographers of the past 100 years were so eminent in his eyes. Top of the list is, in spite of some remarks already quoted, Mackinder (referred to in 27 places). He is followed by H. R. Mill (20 places), P. M. Roebuck and A. H. Hargrave (each with 14 places), and J. H. P. (with 14 places). The great Australian is probably Mill's importance. Perhaps we should all be a little more like him. He was a geographer and a geographer, and he was a geographer.

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BOOKS

The perils that await Homer's translators

Homer: *The Odyssey* a new translation by Walter Shawcross. Oxford University Press, £7.95 and £1.50. ISBN 0 19 251019 3 and 281542 3

When Chomsky completed his translation of *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*, he could declare "The work that I was born to do is done": and indeed he had transformed the Greek into a rugged Elizabethan epic, shaped by his own Stoic ideals. Similarly the challenge of translating Homer may well have served Pope as a substitute for his own ambitions to write an epic poem. Chomsky gave us a rough new Homer, Pope an ennobled Homer—indeed so uniform is his overlay of Augustan diction that it is sometimes difficult to distinguish Pope's contributions to *The Odyssey* from those of his collaborators. Such were once the normal expectations of the poet and his public, but a twentieth-century readership no longer responds to this kind of poetical paraphrase. Ezra Pound, the obvious candidate either as writer or translator of a modern epic, demonstrated the difficulty in his *Odyssey* fragment *The Sufferer*, a brilliant "imitation" of Anglo-Saxon heroic poetry, which it would be impossible, however, to extend to epic length.

When then is lost in translation by a switch from verse to prose? Highly charged language, without doubt, a phrase such as Chomsky's

"The sea had sought his heart through": the rhythmic drive and variety of a verse rendering; the fire and energy of Homer's images, whether sublime or earthy, an effect far more difficult to communicate through prose. A prose translation of a great poem, it is argued, is like a piano transcription of a symphony. Yet there are compensating gains. The modern reader, if less demanding of an impression of epic grandeur, is much more curious concerning Homer's fictional art, the presentation of the world he describes. Thus the dialogues in the great scenes of reunion between the hero and his mother, father, wife and son; Odysseus's unflinching resource in devising a cover story to meet each new situation; the moving presentation of the palace of Ithaca; the brilliant "imitation" of Anglo-Saxon heroic poetry, which it would be impossible, however, to extend to epic length.

When then is lost in translation by a switch from verse to prose? Highly charged language, without doubt, a phrase such as Chomsky's "The sea had sought his heart through": the rhythmic drive and variety of a verse rendering; the fire and energy of Homer's images, whether sublime or earthy, an effect far more difficult to communicate through prose. A prose translation of a great poem, it is argued, is like a piano transcription of a symphony. Yet there are compensating gains. The modern reader, if less demanding of an impression of epic grandeur, is much more curious concerning Homer's fictional art, the presentation of the world he describes. Thus the dialogues in the great scenes of reunion between the hero and his mother, father, wife and son; Odysseus's unflinching resource in devising a cover story to meet each new situation; the moving presentation of the palace of Ithaca; the brilliant "imitation" of Anglo-Saxon heroic poetry, which it would be impossible, however, to extend to epic length.

The virtues of a prose rendering only reveal themselves gradually, as the translator grows his capacity to deal effectively with a wide range of material: a comparison with other prose versions makes the point more quickly. T. E. Lawrence's translation made a powerful impact in the 1930s as the work of a war hero turned writer; it reflects the familiar features of his style, restlessly experimental, manured, forcing every word to work. Inversions of word order and a sprinkling of archaisms—"byres" for "barns", "maria"—are thrown in to suggest the Homeric scene. "The while they butcher his wealth, juicy sheep and rilling-gated, scow-hooped oxen." E. V. Rieu's Penguin translation (1946), probably the most widely read version ever published, follows the modern formula, aiming at a style which

all can understand and read rapidly. This approach undoubtedly helps the flow of the narrative, but at the cost of a diction flavoured with colloquialisms and contemporary clichés. "I'm sure our people will make all arrangements on your behalf for a ship and a picked crew to get you extricated to sacred Pylus on your noble father's trail."

Translators of Homer are beset with more rocks and shoals in the text than Odysseus's ships ever encountered, and one such appears in the first line of *The Odyssey*. Polytropos, an epithet used of the hero, may harbour two meanings, "valiant" and "of many uses", each of which perhaps provides a leitmotif for the whole epic, so it is surprising to see so alert a translator as Mr. Shawcross select the first only, in general his version offers an excellent combination of sound scholarship and literary distinction, and consistently gives pleasure both to mind and ear. His fluid effective sentences, especially in rendering stock epithets, for many of the problems he has identified, and even provides quotations from earlier translations to illuminate passages of special interest. His dialogue is eloquent, avoids clichés, and preserves a touch of formality, sufficient to indicate a ceremonial public occasion. His descriptive passages are vivid, energetic, predominantly Anglo-Saxon in vocabulary; Latin words are used sparingly and to maximum effect. His style possesses a natural dignity and simplicity which shapes

speech and narrative into lucid, well-cadenced units. Three examples must suffice. On the blinding of the Cyclops: "I myself...twirled the stake round, like a ship's carpenter boring through timber with a drill, while his mates help ply a strap between them to keep the drill spinning and a running without a pause. In the same way we grasped the stake with its fiery tip and whirled it round in the giant's eye."

On the reunion of Odysseus and Penelope: "So he spoke. Her knees failed her, her heart melted and there and she knew for truth the undoubted tokens Odysseus gave. Then in tears she ran across to him, and throwing her arms about his neck she kissed his head and began to speak... Thus she spoke, and quickened in him the mood for tears; he wept as he held the true-hearted wife in whom his soul delighted."

On Olympus: "There, men say, the home of the gods is secretly set for ever, unrocked by tempest, undrenched with rain, unassailed by snow; a cloudless sky stretches out above and a white radiance is everywhere; it is in this place that the blessed gods take their pleasure for all their days."

Ian Scott-Kilvert

Ian Scott-Kilvert was formerly director of literature at the British Council.

His strength the more is

The Pilgrim's Progress: critical and edited by Vincent Newey. Liverpool University Press, £12.00. ISBN 0 85323 194 X

In this addition to the Liverpool English Texts and Studies series Vincent Newey has assembled 10 essays on Bunyan from members of the school of English at Liverpool University, and a selection of his own work, and a reprint of a lecture by Roger Shorrock, doyenne of Bunyan scholars. The essays grew out of the conference at Liverpool celebrating the three-hundredth anniversary of *The Pilgrim's Progress*, and one must immediately register admiration for a department which can summon up such an academy of Bunyan enthusiasts.

The conviction that Bunyan's genius has been relatively neglected by critics is part of the collection's declared raison d'être, though it is admitted (in a strange turn of phrase) that "Bunyan has been fortunate over the years in attracting the interest of such scholars as R. L. Loeb, Roger Shorrock and J. H. Plummer." While Bunyan is no doubt a great writer, his genius is not to be found in his prose, but in his self-consuming artifice. (1972) is something to which they allude time and again for support or to draw disagreements.

Philip Edwards, for instance, in a time of anguished correction, offers to look up the problem of Bunyan in the metaphor of a journey and to let Stanley Fish straighten out the sophisticated reader can probably find his way without help, but the critic is advised to carry a proper did. Unfortunately the diagnosis of Bunyan's mind is couched in such allusive writing that it is a basic error of Stanley Fish's position that Bunyan is always pulling the reins against the reader's mouth—that the one who thinks (erroneously) that Bunyan is a simple writer is the one who is wrong. It is what Bunyan is in error? The question of Bunyan's mind is couched in such allusive writing that it is a basic error of Stanley Fish's position that Bunyan is always pulling the reins against the reader's mouth—that the one who thinks (erroneously) that Bunyan is a simple writer is the one who is wrong. It is what Bunyan is in error? 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The outlitor is eonior lecturer in geography and resident organizer for South Cumbria and North Lancashire in the Institute of Extension Studies, Liverpool University.

Inflation has undermined hard-won compensation gains of the 1950 and 1960s, with growing and separate impacts on faculty and morale. There are also serious problems of morale created by the need to make difficult personnel reductions caused by the declining number of students and increasing costs. This is being done increasingly in the context of growing collective eciauw of faculty with the consequent creation of an adversarial relationship with administration.



George Rainsford

Mr Corliso has recently reassured both the polytechnic directors and Naffso that the Government recognized that the non-university sector had been hit harder by previous cuts than the university sector and would try to redress the balance. He clearly forgot to inform Sir Geoffrey Howe.

The second aspect that deserves examination is, if anything, more important. For the reasons for the cuts advanced by the Government are more disturbing even than the cuts it feels

is very simple and very frightening. Public expenditure is not being cut. It is simply being transferred from investment expenditure (or, rather, from investment expenditure to expenditure (for the rapidly increasing number of unemployed). The Government's dogmatic effort to revive the economy by cutting public expenditure has only deepened the slump and led to an increase in unemployment in the most unproductive areas possible. The decision to make further cuts now can only make things worse. The central problem of the British economy, low productivity with its attendant high unemployment, is not the solution of which higher education can make an important contribution, has also been made worse.

It is this that is most depressing about the cuts announced by Sir Geoffrey Hare on Monday. It is that the Government is inflicting further serious damage to higher education although that possibility certainly exists especially in the polytechnic and colleges. It is that this Government shows no sign of learning from the experience of the last

So the prospect must be for turning "adjustments" in "Talliesland" into aphorism "Il n'est rien appris, rien oublié".

Blackdown

In any case, likely to be self-defeating. By stunting the development of Palestinian intellectual life within the occupied territories, Israel will be forcing the population of the West Bank and Gaza into growing reliance on the intellectuals of the Palestinian diaspora. A diaspora already very firmly committed to the PLO and, by virtue of its distance from Israel, less ready to consider pragmatic solutions to the Middle East conflict in general. Mr. Begin's government, is on the last legs and will be replaced within a year by a new Labour administration, committed to reviving the policy of Palestinian autonomy to which Mr. Begin paid lip-service but which was vitiated by the annexation of the West Bank within his own coalition. When that time comes Israel will surely miss the influence of a powerful, intelligent lobby in the occupied territories which could have provided some of the answers to the more extreme Palestinian organizations outside the area.

praised by the inspectors (although whether the cost of such an answer is likely to be replaced within the next

tion is so well understood it is difficult to see how the I.L.E. would have very damaging effects on standards in the post-school sector, and would have no effect on learning knock-on effect in terms of national policies for non-university education. For example, it is difficult to see how the need for a national body could any longer be avoided.

So, despite the stirring of the dichords and their exploitation by the media, the evidence for the verdict must remain the same. The case for breaking up the I.L.E. is very weak in the case of school education and does not exist at all in the cases of higher and further education.

twining of questions of the authority to decide with questions of jurisdiction to decide, and ability to reach and implement decisions. There are also heightened expectations of leadership when the goals of the institutions can be seriously affected by events external to them over which institutional leadership has little control.

Finally, there is need to express both a realistic understanding of the problems facing higher education, to deal with the general tendency to produce a self-fulfilling prophecy which will accelerate a downward spiral, and at the same time to articulate more forcefully a hard-headed faith in academic commitment to the validity of our academic institutions and the values for which they stand.

What these few problems are real but

not overwhelming. There is nothing here that cannot be overcome by patience, and hard work. Wood Allen, that famous American optimist, has said that "a nation will face a serious crossroad where one road leads to gloom and despoilation and the other road leads to utter extinction." He asserts that we must be smart enough to pick the right road.

be as important and exciting a time for higher education as the growth years of the 1960s and 1970s. There is some important unfulfilled business before us which we will meet only if we but pose and successfully answer those difficult questions of goal and mission and priorities. We must decide that there are some things to be done superbly, some things adequately, and some things not at all.

But the problems facing higher education will not be effectively dealt with if the role of educational

leaders is traditional. A new kind of leadership is required which will be both internal and external, as much of persuasion, dialogue and negotiation as of judgment and decision; as much of education as of management orientation, as much of understanding and selling the needs of higher education generally as of the needs of individual institutions.

Even though the image of the president is no longer that of the highly personalized scholar—the M. C. C. Chips—if presidents cannot talk education to their faculties, they

These are important and, indeed, critical times for higher education when the officers of institutions will be called upon increasingly to communicate internally and externally.

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of their institutions. Education
leaders will need to be committed
to understand and articulate the
broad questions of education, e
the same time recognizing wit
W. H. Auden the practical busine
of the fact that in the meantime
"there are bills to be paid
machines to be kept in repair, leg
gular verbs to learn, and the tim
being to redeem from insignifi
cance".

كتاب في الفقه